

Speaker Registration/Testimony

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Meeting Date 06-07-2017
Council/PH Council
Committee
Agenda Item Bill 6(2017), CD2
Your position Oppose
on the matter
Representing Self
Organization
Do you wish
to speak at the No
hearing?

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On March 27, 2017, I wrote an email to Councilmember Kobayashi. I would like the contents of that email entered as my testimony opposing this bill:

Dear Ms. Kobayashi,

I am writing to you in opposition to Bill 6(2017) which aims to restrict the use of a mobile electronic device by a person crossing a street or highway.

Written
Testimony

From a report by KHON, Councilman Elefante has stated that Hawaii is ranked 13th in pedestrian deaths as one of his reasons for creating this bill. Has there been any studies or reports that using a mobile electronic device while crossing the street is a reason that we rank so high? There are studies that show that infrastructure is usually the leading cause of pedestrian deaths. (<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/new-pedestrian-safety-ranking-calls-for-complete-streets/>) The City has already started designing for Complete Streets in Downtown.

I believe Bill 6(2017) is a distraction to the efforts to keep our streets safer for pedestrians. I think there may be minimal positive effect and potential for a negative effect as well. Firstly, I have seen no enforcement of State laws that prevent cars from continuing when pedestrians are approaching their lane in crosswalks. Will this law be as low priority for enforcement as that other pedestrian safety law? Will most of the tickets go to tourists unaware of the ordinance? Does that keep our local pedestrians safer? Secondly, I believe I have seen higher occurrences of road rage as the driving public became aware of state law where a pedestrian is not allowed to start crossing when the walk signal has started to blink red. I see drivers visibly frustrated at pedestrians who start crossing a little too late. Would this law add to an antagonistic relationship between pedestrian and vehicular operators?

I believe a better solution is to invest more in expanding the City's Complete Streets

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effort islandwide. Slowing down vehicles, increasing visibility, and reducing pedestrian/vehicle interaction would have a real benefit for limiting pedestrian death and injury.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sean Ishii

Testimony
Attachment
Accept Terms
and
Agreement

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